

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /078 W
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R 231607Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6094

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01946

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, FR, SF

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA

REF: PARIS 16750 (NOTAL) (1974)

1. DURING CONVERSATION JANUARY 22 WITH AF/S DEPUTY DIRECTOR ARENALES, WE TWITTED QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA COMBAL ABOUT THE LEVERAGE WHICH THE CONTINUING SALE OF ARMS POTENTIALLY GIVES THE FRENCH OVER THE SAG. COMBAL JOCLARLY ADMITTED THAT THE FRENCH HAVE NO INTENTION TO USE SUCH LEVERAGE WITH PRETORIA. IN AN OSTENSIBLY MORE SERIOUS VEIN, HE REITERATED THAT FRANCE WILL CONTINUE TO SELL SOUTH AFRICA "STRATEGIC" EQUIPMENT, E.G. PLANES AND SHIPS, BUT CLAIMED THAT REQUESTS FOR MATERIAL THAT MIGHT BE USED IN GUERRILLA FIGHTING ARE NOT RECEIVING THE PROMPT APPROVAL THEY ONCE DID. HE FURTHER SAID THAT FRANCE BELIEVES THE USE OF THREATS IN ANY WESTERN DEMARCHE TO THE SAG ON NAMIBIA (OR ON ANY OTHER MATTER) WOULD ONLY GET THE SOUTH AFRICANS' BACKS UP AND DEFEAT THE PURPOSE OF THE APPROACH.

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2. COMMENT: THERE IS STILL NO SIGN THAT BLACK

AFRICAN DISAPPROBATION HAS REACHED A LEVEL THAT MIGHT
INDUCE THE FRENCH TO ALTER PRESENT POLICY ENCOURAGING
LUCRATIVE ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA.
RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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